



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## IDNR Announces 2014–15 Waterfowl Season Dates

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) today announced proposed waterfowl season dates and bag limits for the 2014–15 seasons. The recommendations include 60-day duck seasons in each of the state's four waterfowl hunting zones, along with Canada goose hunting seasons of 90 days in the North and Central zones, an 85-day Canada goose season in the South Central Zone, and a 66-day Canada goose season in the South Zone. Goose season lengths are shorter in the South Central and South zones to coincide with duck season dates and match hunter preferences.

The Illinois seasons are based on a five-year plan for waterfowl hunting season dates that was developed in 2011 and continues through the 2015–16 season. For 2014–15, Illinois will open the regular duck, Canada goose, and snow goose seasons on Oct. 18 in the North Zone, Oct. 25 in the Central Zone, Nov. 8 in the South Central Zone, and Nov. 27 in the South Zone. White-fronted goose seasons open Nov. 3 in the North Zone, Nov. 19 in the Central and South Central zones, and Nov. 27 in the South Zone.

The proposed daily duck bag limit is six (6) and may include no more than four (4) mallards (two hens), three (3) wood ducks, three (3) scaup, two (2) redheads, two (2) pintails, one (1) canvasback, one (1) black duck, and one (1) mottled duck. The proposed daily bag limit of mergansers is five (5), only two of which may be hooded mergansers. The possession limit for ducks and mergansers is three times the daily bag limit by species and sex.

Canada and white-fronted goose daily bag limits will be two (2) with a possession limit of six (6). The snow goose daily bag limit is 20 birds, with no possession limit.

Illinois' regulations are subject to final approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service later this summer.

The IDNR 2014–15 season dates are outlined below.

### **Illinois Waterfowl Regular Season Dates - 2014–15**

<b>North Zone</b>	<b><u>Youth Hunt</u></b>	<b><u>Duck</u></b>	<b><u>Canada Goose</u></b>
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2014–15	Oct. 11 – 12	Oct. 18 – Dec. 16	Oct. 18 – Jan. 15
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#### **Central Zone**

2014–15	Oct. 18 – 19	Oct. 25 – Dec. 23	Oct. 25 – Nov. 16 and Nov. 26 – Jan. 31
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#### **South Central Zone**

2014–15	Nov. 1 – 2	Nov. 8 – Jan. 6	Nov. 8 – Jan. 31
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#### **South Zone**

2014–15	Nov. 15 – 16	Nov. 27 – Jan. 25	Nov. 27 – Jan. 31
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### **Illinois Snow Goose and White-Fronted Goose Season Dates – 2014--15**

#### **North Zone**

##### Snow Geese

Regular Season: Oct. 18 – Jan. 15

White-fronted Geese: Nov. 3 – Jan. 15

#### **Central Zone**

##### Snow Geese

Regular Season: Oct. 25 – Jan. 31

White-fronted Geese: Nov. 19 – Jan. 31

#### **South Central Zone**

##### Snow Geese

Regular Season: Nov. 8 – Jan. 31

White-fronted Geese: Nov. 19 – Jan. 31

#### **South Zone**

##### Snow Geese

Regular Season: Nov. 27 – Jan. 31

White-fronted Geese: Nov. 27 – Jan. 31

The Illinois waterfowl zone maps are available on the IDNR website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/waterfowl/Pages/MapsApprovedWaterfowlZoneLines.aspx>

The September 2014 early Canada goose season is Sept. 1–15, with a daily limit of five (5) and a possession limit of 15 geese in the North and Central zones, and a daily limit of two (2) and a possession limit of six (6) geese in the South Central and South zones. Illinois' 16-day 2014 statewide teal hunting season is Sept. 6–21, with a daily limit of six (6) and a possession limit of eighteen (18). Shooting hours for the September teal season are different from the regular season, starting at sunrise (½ hour later than regular season) until sunset.

Spring Conservation Order snow goose season will begin the day after the close of regular goose season in each zone and run through March 31. There is no daily bag limit on snow, blue, and Ross' geese during this season.

Additional details on the duck, goose, and other migratory bird hunting seasons will be available on the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) and in the 2014 *Illinois Digest of Waterfowl Hunting Regulations*, available in September.

Illinois will begin to develop a new five-year plan for waterfowl zone lines and season dates for the 2016–2020 seasons following the 2014–15 waterfowl season. Hunters should look for opportunities to engage with the Department to help identify hunters' preferences for season dates and zones.

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